

**Kauai Invasive Species Committee**  
**Strategic Planning Meeting**  
**22 October 2002**  
Approved Meeting Minutes

**I. Welcome:**

Allan Rietow extends welcome and thank-you for coming to KISC's second Strategic Planning meeting. Outside island guests: From DofaW: Rob Hauff and Mindy Wilkinson. From TNC: Mark White (Director of Partnership Programs). Introductions of individual committee members (attendees listed below). Special thanks to Laurie Ho and Alvin Kyono for the driving force to get Kisc started.

**II. Review agenda and the day's objectives**

**III. Introductions and Announcements**

- Meghan joining OISC
- Keren has been chosen as new Project coordinator
- Sarah Newton has been chosen as the new Natural Resources Management Assistant

**IV. Review for Committee:**

- KISC Mission Statement: KISC is a voluntary partnership of government, private and non-profit organizations, and concerned individuals working to eliminate or control the most threatening invasive plant and animal species in order to preserve Kauai's native bio-diversity and minimize adverse ecological, economic and social impacts.
- Policy Statement: The continued introduction and spread of unwanted pest and invasive organisms harms our economy, water supply, native bio-diversity, health, and the lifestyle and culture unique to this island. The Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) is a voluntary partnership of government, private, non-profit organizations, and individuals working together to:
  - Prevent the introduction of potentially damaging pest species to the island.
  - Eliminate recently arrived (incipient) pests before they spread beyond control.
  - Manage established pests in order to reduce their negative impacts.
  - Educate and involve the public as to the magnitude of the invasive species problem and the need for control programs such as KISC.KISC is intended to supplement existing programs and aims to assist in the coordination of efforts island-wide.  
KISC's priorities will be those species that are recognized as having the greatest potential to harm human welfare and native biodiversity, and where the use of limited resources is most likely to be successful.
- Rules of order: We are a consensus group. Differences of opinion are good, but please respect everyone's input.

**V. Review last meeting results**

Review FY03 Action Plan (distributed to committee)

**VI. Progress/status report (for original Priority List)**

Miconia: In homesteads and Wailua River State Park (WRSP). We are about halfway through homestead private property searches. Have found around 18 (one flowering). We are just about done with second sweep search of park. We have been advised to extend the one mile buffer to two mile buffer from last known plant. Meghan suggested keeping a one mile buffer to be extensively searched and then doing recon. for the two mile buffer area. Are surveys done in GMA? Yes, whenever DoFaW has money a helicopter survey is done. It has been about a year since the last helicopter survey. Is it a useful way to survey? Will not see the plants easily from the air. The Albezia gets in the way and unless the Miconia are flowering, they are difficult to spot. In WRSP Bryon suggests that we go back to areas of known infestations rather than do full sweeps. Leland suggests putting up posters along roadways and trails. Recommend: keeping Miconia

as number one priority.

Thorny Kiawe: KISC has mapped over 46 miles of coastal areas: the core infestation, satellite populations, and hybrids. What is the attitude of landowners? Do they want to contribute equipment etc.? Need to develop partnerships with the landowners. Have we surveyed inland where other Kiawe is growing? No, we have mostly monitored coastal area, because of the suggested habitat of 200m from shore. We sampled the outside to where it most likely would be found if it existed inland. Adam Asquith suggests we leave it high on the priority list, as funds are available to support our efforts through Fish and Wildlife. Are mechanical means of removal feasible? We haven't actively pursued this at the base. If spike would prevent germination of native plants, since much of the infestation site is now deemed part of the critical habitat, this might not prove to be a good method for removal. Guy suggested that spike would not prevent germination due to the porous nature of the ground. Another method suggested was to bulldoze paths through the Kiawe to more accurately disperse spike. Thorny Kiawe is not only found on Kauai, Oahu, and Niihau, but also rumored to be on Molokai with the status unknown on other islands.

Fireweed (*Senecio madagascariensis*): Found only at Halfway Bridge. We started out by finding out 1000 plants /mo. We are now down to about 25 plants /mo. Total infestation area is about 10 to 15 acres. Window of opportunity for control is very small now. It spreads rapidly. Recommended that we go after it with intense effort. Suggestions included enlisting the help of the cattlemen industry and 4H. Lelan recommends another sign in that area. Possible government interactions with cost-share programs are available.

Fountain Grass: KISC has yet to move on this. Population is found mainly on A&B land with small satellite populations on Robinson land. When it was pointed out that this population seems to be spreading slowly, Mark White contributed that it spread slowly on the Big Island then the population exploded and is now out of hand. Guy's theory is that since it thrives in dry land it is not very happy where it is now because of the high rainfall in this area. If it moves to the west, to the drier side of the island, it will explode. If we do nothing the whole west side, including the canyon and the Na pali, will be covered with Fountain grass. Is it grazed by goats? No. This weed is a great fire hazard.

Pampas Grass: Only one known population. So far, untreated. Can it spread in the wild? Yes, it has spread on West Maui and the Big Island and is found in both wet and dry areas. Suggested action: put through Weed Risk Assessment.

Ivy gourd: Currently treating. We have discovered people are harvesting this plant for culinary purposes. We are trying to contact property owners to get the names and phone numbers of the harvesters to educate them. We have purposely left a small population for these people so as not to risk them planting it elsewhere. We can monitor this population more easily. KISC has treated all outlying populations. Because the population is limited we do have the opportunity to eliminate it. This is a major pest on other islands. Education is primary. Perhaps showing the harvesters pictures of what it can do will discourage their use of it.

False Kava: There is one known population at Kahili Mountain School. We have treated it but must continue to monitor it. We need to do a wider transect of area to confirm containment.

Cattail: We are still mapping populations. Have treated one 1-½ acre population at Mahaulepu. Niumalu has a large population that is denser but confined to about an acre. This weed can move quickly to fill wetlands. It forms a dense ~~rhizome~~ rhizome mat. Adam Asquith said that within a year, a small population in Niumalu grew to a much larger, denser and more spread out population. We need to work on educating the public. John Plews suggested that it could be confused with native rushes. Guy suggested that it is sometimes good to get false calls to go talk story with the general public. F&W have focused funds toward eradication and there may be more.

Frogs: *Planirostris* has established populations (Hyatt and Sheraton in Poipu and possibly in Wailua Homesteads). *Coqui* no established populations. *Planirostris* is not too far-gone for eradication. We will be receiving help from USDA on eradication on Kauai. ~~\$250K~~ \$250 mil for this year is dedicated for frog control through USDA/Wildlife Services. Two *Coqui* have been recently caught in Lawai and one in Puhi.

Little Red Fire Ant: We have been monitoring two sites on the North Shore. Results showed negative. KISC will monitor every six months. There have been no new sightings.

Pyracantha: Katie's group (KRCP) has eliminated all known populations in Kokee. It is in a monitoring phase now.

## VII. Discuss & create a new Priority List

- Existing Target List

There was unanimous approval to keep the existing target species list until end of the fiscal year.

- Discuss new target weeds/animals/projects

Hiptage: Sugarcane had kept it under control, now it is coming into old fields. Cannot pull it down by hand. It can get heavy enough to break down Java Plum, African tulip, and Norfolk pine, for example. Hiptage has a huge potential to spread over a great area. Acreage: unknown but estimated to be at least 500 acres. Guy Nagai has done trials on this and is skeptical of ways to control it. Trials tried stump and basal application: results were not successful. *(Confirm this as he just recently told me that he did frill method with 100% Garlon and also tried roundup and let me know the results. He suggested we try basal application for our trials. Also, am curious if he did indeed try cut stump as that is what OISC has tried - Results still pending)* Can it be foliar air sprayed? No, it would kill everything else. There are populations already on edge of the preserve and on the edge of Huleia valley. Recommend mapping and possibly trials. OISC has begun control efforts: Garlon 3a or 4 at 20% on cut stumps. Results are inconclusive so far. Individuals may be possible to kill; population removal is difficult. Terrain is also difficult.

Arundo: 8 populations have already been mapped. Proven to be a large problem in California. Can restrict beach access. Variegated variety is used in haku leis. Have been used in landscaping. It is spread by rhizome, not seed. Has a wide range and can live in wet or dry environments. Can block beach access and create nuisance.

Kudzu: Have heard that there are populations in Hanalei as well as in Kokee. The South Eastern United State has 7 mil acres of it. Kudzu was planted in the 1920's as a soil erosion control and nitrogen fixer. Mark White said that there is also a population on east Maui that hasn't spread rapidly but if our population is small, eradicate it. Treatment is recommended over several seasons (possibly 4-6 years). Roundup, Garlon and others are effective.

Kokee State Park Project: When the state park cabin leases expire (approximately 100 of them) in 2004, 2005, this would be an ideal time to eradicate potential invasives on these properties. We would go onto properties and treat weeds while the state has ownership. John Plews agrees that it would be an ideal time and that it is a needed project. KISC could concentrate the next few years on gaining funds for the project and doing surveys to determine weed populations. Wayne Souza said that they will be hiring a state botanist who will be surveying each lot. David Alexander said that cleaning out the valleys would be very difficult as the weeds are already out of control. He said that we are looking at a "generational" project, not one that can be accomplished in a short interval. Wayne says that there is an opportunity and he would appreciate the help. He also said that the Kokee management plan comments are due Oct 25. KISC will submit a comment regarding addressing invasives around the cabins.

Palm grass: This is a weed that Bryon Stevens was concerned about and can be found in selected areas of Kokee.

Hapu'u Tree Ferns: Prevention Project. We could establish some kind of monitoring of incoming logs and certifying them free of invasives. Leland estimated that 1000/year come into this island. Both the private sector and nurseries bring in logs. We need to find out what other island are doing for preventative measures. Education is very important. Five years ago they lifted the fumigation restriction (resulted in high mortality).

Australian Tree Fern: Major threat in the back of Lumahai Valley. KRCP treating in Kokee. Need more education/ survey. Many nurseries still selling. Need more discussion.

Prevention List: Create a list of weeds we want to keep off island. Ones not currently established or introduced. (expl: Bulbul). **[Add as an agenda item for next KISC meeting]**

Jackson chameleon: Not much information on this.

Day gecko: Not much information on this.

Grey cheeked parakeet: Possible sighting on east side of Lihue.

Brown anole: Already established here. It occurs in high density

Ring necked parakeet: Seed companies have contracted wildlife services to eradicate. These will go after any seed or fruit producing plant.

Kahili ginger in Kokee: KRCP is currently working on eradication and control. A thorough mapping and control of satellite populations are recommended. East Maui has thousands of acres of Kahili ginger and has initiated areas of control. Arial Photos have been taken but interpretation of photos is needed. These photos can be a starting place for ground crews. Kahili ginger threatens forest regeneration.

Clerodendron: Invasive type (located at NTBG visitors' center in Poipu) has not been identified. We need more information on this.

Lelan suggested we review what the university assessed during their weed risk assessment. Handouts were distributed for review from the Weed Risk Assessment meeting.

- Prioritize/ Catagorize

- Add to Action List:

- Arundo*

- Monitor/ Map/ Trials:

- Hiptage* - involve land owners- mapping (500 acres?)/ monitor/ possibly trials/ possibly treat outliers.

- Kahili ginger* - in partnership w/KRCP and Forestry

- Fiddlewood* - identify species. Look into putting through Weed Risk Assessment. Found only in Anahola so far (possible action item)

- Mangrove*- map and look for partnerships for possible control.

- Education and further study:

- Kudzu

- Kokee weed project (make comment to general plan by Oct 25)

- Hapu'u shipping process

- Jackson chameleon

- Brown anole

- Day geckos

- Grey cheeked parakeet (had reports of 4 individuals) - involve farm bureau

- Ringed neck parakeet & Bulbuls

- Clerodendron - identify - put through weed risk assessment

- Australia Tree Fern- further study

- Parked items:

- Palm grass (except in Kokee)

- Focus on protecting areas of ecological integrity from incipient invasions

- Black Wattle

Attendance: Allan Rietow, Keren Gundersen, Meghan Halabisky, Sarah Newton, Craig Kaneshige, Clifton Ephan, Guy Nagai, Rob Hauff, Katie Cassel, Jeri Ooka, Laurie Ho, Mindy Wilkinson, Mark White, John Plews, Ellen Coulombe, David Alexander, Ron Peyton, Michelle Clark, Wayne Souza, Ernie Lau, Rhoda Libre, Kymm Solchaga, Jon Schlegel, Alvin Kyono, Lelan Nishek.

*PAU*